Future of Papers Unclear

Nixon Foundation Dissolved by Trustees

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Reuter

BRUSSELS, Dec. 31—Plans for a library to preserve the tapes and papers of former President Nixon collapsed today when the Nixon Foundation—set up to organize the project—dissolved itself.

The president of the foundaiton, Ambassador Leonard K. Firestone, a Nixon appointee, said in a statement here that a majority of the foundation's 25 board members had voted to disband the organization.

"In view of recent legislaitve action the future disposition of Richard Nixon's presidential papers is unclear," he said in the statement.

He was believed to be referring to President Ford's action of Dec. 19, when he signed a bill giving the U.S. government custody of the Nixon tapes and papers.

Nixon responded to that action the next day by asking the U.S. District Court in Washington to overturn the

[illegible] family who became U.S. ambassador to Belgium last June, said that the Nixon Foundation trustees had voted to transfer its asset —"primarily studies preliminary to the establishment of a Richard M. Nixon Library and Museum"—to Whittier College in California.

The college, which Nixon attended, was prepared to accept and administer the foundation's assets, American sources said.

Firestone said that the foundation "had not solicited donations other than from its trustees so that no substantial funds are involved in the transfer."

The fund was established in 1969 to ensure the suitable preservation of the papers and memorabilia of the Nixon presidency.

Firestone said that "the majority of the board feel that the present circumstances militate against carrying out the purposes of the foundation at this time."

However, he added that the Whittier College trustees and other interested parties "may at a later date decide what can be done to preserve the record of six eventful years in American and world history in a Nixon library."

He pointed out that it was customary for the papers and [illegible] library in order to provide a historical record of their achievements in office.

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